



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Arl Cultural Comm Minutes 4/4/2013**

### ARLINGTON CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – April 4, 2013

Present: Adria Arch, David Ardito, Roly Chaput, Barbara Costa, Nora Mann, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Scott Samenfeld  
Guest: Paul Schlichtman, School Committee

Call to order 7:33

#### **ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes**

March 7 minutes approved unanimously

#### **ITEM 2: Report to Board of Selectman and Town Meeting**

Following up from our previous meeting, Barbara Costa, with Dave Ardito's help, will write a paragraph describing our beginnings and some of our plans for moving forward to present at Town Meeting. Roly Chaput will bring it to the Board of Selectmen.

#### **ITEM 2: Treasurer's Report**

Roly Chaput spoke to Ruth Lewis, Comptroller, to set up an account. We are trying to figure out how that can be done when there is no money to put in it.

#### **ITEM 4: Bus Depot Mural**

Scott Samenfeld had approached Joe Curro about having a meeting and Joe asked the Commission whether we would be willing to broker the conversation among stakeholders to discuss the circumstances of the removal of the MBTA Bus Depot Mural in Arlington Heights.

The substance of this conversation would be:

What happened?

How and why it happened?

What are the ramifications of this incident for the relationship between the town, businesses, public art and the community for the future?

What are lessons learned?

At the next meeting, we will

- 1) Compile list of the stakeholders (includes media) in our town;
- 2) Compile a list of comparable towns, even beyond Massachusetts, to research models of Cultural Plans, activities, and mission statements of other Cultural Commissions
- 3) Begin a draft of the mission statement, but take our time developing it

There was some concern that this scope was too broad and that we needed to have just a very focused conversation with a clear outcome – a belated decommissioning process for the mural.

We discussed the possibility of two conversations, a narrow and a broad, but decided they should be part of the same meeting and that it should happen relatively quickly.

There was also concern that we are a very new org.

There was apparently a meeting in July between Carol Kowalski, Alan Manoian, former Economic Development Coordinator, the store owner, and Mass Council for the Blind.

In the end we decided that it was within our role to broker this conversation in an unbiased, non-accusatory fashion. It should be acknowledged that the building was and still is private property and that public art, particularly on private property, is considered temporary, but this is an opportunity to help define a process for the future that respects art and artists in a way that gives business an opportunity to show that they value art and the community it serves.

It was suggested that we consider having Stacie Smith, from Consensus Building Institute, who facilitated Arlington Alive, facilitate this meeting, as someone with a lot of experience facilitating just these types of conversations.

It was also suggested that organizations and stakeholders be invited to make statements: Arlington Cultural Council, Arlington Public Art, the Artist, Dearborn and MCB in particular, plus any community members who want to participate.

David and Scott volunteered to set up this meeting.

Roly Chaput volunteered to get hold of the Town Bylaw regarding signs that was changed to allow for public art.

#### **ITEM 4: REPORTS**

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel brought in the Arlington Alive report. Stephanie had inquired about the Master planning meeting report from October 17, 2012 and was told By Carol Kowalski that the planning committee was not far enough along to have generated any reports and was referred to the Vision 2020 survey from 2000-2001. Joey Glusko said that the topic responses and "similar voting responses" (not sure meaning here), have been collated and are being used by the Master Planning committee, but is not sure if they have been made available to the general public yet.

Action:

Stephanie to follow up with Carol and Joey and try to find out more

Stephanie will get Vision 2020 report

Stephanie will bring in reports from the Artists and Business summits

Roly Chaput will go to the Redevelopment Board to attain a copy of the Master Plan.

Scott Samenfeld will bring in the Arlington Sustainability Action Plan

#### **ITEM 5: DEFINING OUR ROLE, A MISSION STATEMENT**

Part of our role could be as an archiver of these kinds of records since we need them to set our goals anyway  
We should look at the website Planning.org as a resource

How do we distinguish ourselves and do something more than what others are already doing in town

We are looking at comparable committees from other towns and cities and their mission statements as well.

Mission Statement:

- We need to divide the mission statement from the Vision Statement
- Dave provided a draft
- Roly Chaput brought in Core values and Mission Statement from Friends of Robbins Farm Park
- Stephanie read a couple of examples she collected

The Mission needs to define who we are and who we are not. The vision needs to address projects we would want to see happen, core values, and concrete goals

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 7:30pm, Town Hall Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room (To be confirmed by Adam Chapdelaine)

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Recording Secretary

Process to be continued

**ITEM 6: New Business**

Warrant Article 32, how does it affect us

May 14 – Lunch for Very Special Arts

High School Art Show, now through April 10

Town Hall – K-12 Arts Show, May 22

Images of Arlington by 5<sup>th</sup> graders

Savory Plate – moving food cases to make room for art and music

Meeting Adjourned: 9:04pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 7:30pm, Town Hall Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Recording Secretary